

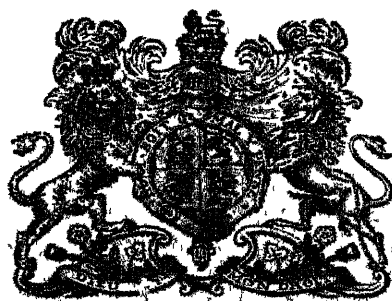
ANNUAL REPORT

ON

THE POST OFFICE OF INDIA

FOR THE YEAR

1907-1908.



CALCUTTA
SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT PRINTING, INDIA
1908.

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ANNUAL REPORT
ON
THE POST OFFICE OF INDIA
FOR THE YEAR
1907-08.

No. 229-s B. P., dated the 30th September 1908.

From—W MAXWELL, Esq., ICS, Offg Director-General of the Post Office of India,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry.

I HAVE the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Post Office of India for the official year 1907-08

2. The administration of the Department was in the hands of Mr. ^{Charge of} C. Stewart-Wilson almost throughout the year. I held charge only for the last ^{the Post} Office ^{Office} nineteen days in March.

3 The year under review was remarkable on account of the number of im-^{Principal} portant administrative measures that were carried out. The grant of discount on ^{events in-} the sale of postage stamps and stationery was discontinued with effect from 1st ^{land post} April 1907 and, in order to prevent the public from being put to inconvenience in obtaining stamps, numerous small offices were opened in the larger towns and paid vendors were appointed at all the important post offices, while special arrangements were also made for counter clerks to keep supplies of stamps for sale during the hours the offices were open. The result of these measures, as shown in another part of this report, was that the percentage of increase in the case of unpaid letters was smaller than in the two previous years and also smaller than the percentage of increase of paid letters issued for delivery during the year.

The savings effected by the discontinuance of discount on stamps were utilised in improving the pay of postmasters throughout the country.

The three minor circles of Eastern Bengal, Assam, and Sind and Baluchistan were abolished, the two first-named being amalgamated to form the major circle of Eastern Bengal and Assam, while in the case of the third, the province of Sind was attached to Bombay and Baluchistan to the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle.

The old Railway Mail Service circle which practically comprised the whole of India except the Punjab, was also abolished and its place taken by 4 conveniently-sized circles, each under the charge of an Inspector-General. This reorganisation, which was required as the charge was much too extensive for one Inspector-General to supervise, has resulted in a marked improvement in sorting arrangements and in the administration of the Railway Mail Service.

A further step in the progress of postal unity was made by the amalgamation of the Holkar postal system with the Imperial Post Office. This measure was

attended with the opening of 53 post offices and 571 miles of mail lines. There now remain in India less than 20 Native States which retain postal systems of their own.

In view of the heavy work and great personal responsibility attaching to the appointments of the Presidency Postmasters of Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras, and of the Postmasters of Rangoon and Lahore, a substantial increase of pay was sanctioned for these officers.

Perhaps the most important administrative changes of the year were the reforms introduced with respect to letter and parcel postage.

With effect from 1st October 1907 the weights of letters allowed for $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 anna were raised from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 tola and from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 tolas, respectively, and the parcel postage rates applicable to weights between 20 and 440 tolas were reduced by two annas throughout the scale.

The serious strike of the guards and drivers of the East Indian Railway which occurred in November dislocated the mail arrangements for some time, but the situation was dealt with successfully by the Department, and on the whole the detentions to which the mails were subjected were of no great consequence.

Of the improvements introduced in railway communications which affected the Post Office, the most important was the alteration in the timings of the mail services between Calcutta and Madras which resulted practically in a postal saving of two days in the time occupied in the double journey, as a reply from Madras to a letter posted at Calcutta can now be received two days earlier than under the former timings.

In January the Post Office organised a service in connection with the military operations in the Bazar Valley and the arrangements made worked satisfactorily.

In the Life Branch of the Postal Insurance Fund a change of considerable advantage to policy-holders was made, Government having decided that the sums eventually payable in respect of policies which were in existence on 31st March 1907 should be increased by 10 per cent. and that the premia payable on sums assured after that date should be reduced by the same percentage.

Plague continued to exact a heavy toll from the Department, the total number of deaths of postal servants from this cause being 243, as compared with 283 in 1906-07, but it is very gratifying to be able to record that no instance came to notice of desertion of duty from fear of the disease.

Among the minor events may be mentioned the opening of a Postal Audit office at Madras, the removal of certain restrictions on the redirection of telegraphic money orders, and the introduction of a new procedure with respect to value-payable articles and registered parcels.

Increases in
pay of postal
servants.

4. During the year under report very special attention was paid to raising the pay of postal servants, not only on account of the growth of work and money responsibility but also on account of the general rise in the cost of living. Increases in pay were sanctioned in the case of no less than 186 head postmasters, 98 deputy and assistant postmasters, 736 sub-postmasters, and 582 branch postmasters, but it should be explained that the greater part of the cost of these improvements was met from the special funds provided for the purpose in connection with the abolition of discount on the sales of postage stamps and postal stationery. The pay of 684 clerks and sorters, 3,057 postmen and village postmen, 1,856 runners and 847 other inferior servants was also raised.

Principal
events,
foreign post.

5. The Acts of the Universal Postal Congress held at Rome in April and May 1906 came into operation on the 1st October 1907, from which date the unit

of weight for foreign letters was raised from $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to 1 oz., and the rates for foreign letter postage were revised as follows —

To the United Kingdom and British possessions
(with the exception of Ceylon) participating
in the Imperial Penny Postage scheme and
to Egypt (including the Soudan)

1 anna per oz., or part of that
weight

To all other countries and places served by
the Foreign Post (with the exception of
Ceylon and Portuguese India to which the
Indian inland rates are applicable)

2½ annas for the first oz., and 1½
annas for every additional oz.,
or part of that weight

The letter postage to Basutoland, the Bechuanaland Protectorate, British Bechuanaland, Rhodesia, the Fanning Islands, Tortola, and Tristan D'Acunha was reduced to one anna the ounce

A scheme known as the "International Reply-coupon" scheme was introduced with effect from the 15th November 1907, under which senders of letters exchanged between India and a large number of other countries and colonies can prepay the replies to their letters by means of "reply-coupons," which, like postage stamps, can be purchased at any post office. These coupons are sold to the public at the price of 3 annas each.

The value-payable system was made applicable to postal articles exchanged with Portuguese India and with the British Protectorate of Somaliland

The foreign money order system was extended to Brazil, the Japanese Postal Agencies in Manchuria, and Karafuto (Japanese Saghalien). A maximum limit was imposed on the value of foreign sterling money orders and British postal orders issued to any single individual in one day, this limit being £100 in the case of foreign sterling money orders and £20 in that of British postal orders.

The rates of postage applicable to parcels for a large number of countries and colonies were reduced in consequence of the reduction contemplated by Article 3 of the Parcel Post Convention of Rome in the charges for sea transit of parcels having been agreed to by Germany and certain other countries whose maritime services are used by the Indian Post Office for the transmission of parcels. Reductions were also effected in the rates of parcel postage to Rhodesia, the United States of America, the Ottoman offices in Turkey, and the Fiji Islands.

The foreign parcel post was extended to Russia in Asia, the Japanese offices in Manchuria, and Karafuto, and insurance to destination was made available in the case of the foreign registered letter and parcel exchanges with certain British and French possessions, with the German offices in China, and with the Japanese offices in Manchuria and Karafuto.

A new contract was concluded by His Majesty's Postmaster-General with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company for a combined Eastern and Australian mail service, which came into operation on the 1st February 1908. The time in transit from Brindisi to Bombay under this new contract has been reduced by 8 hours, so that the mails, which still leave London every Friday night at 10 P.M., are now due at Bombay at 6 A.M. on Friday of each week. Negotiations were also completed during the year for a supplementary contract with the British India Steam Navigation Company for the conveyance of mails weekly between Rangoon and Penang.

6 Up to and including Friday, the 7th February 1908, the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's outward mail steamers were due to arrive at Bombay at 2 P. M. on Friday of each week. Since that date, however, the due time of arrival has been altered, under the provisions of the new contract concluded by His Majesty's Postmaster-General with the Company, to 6 A.M. on Friday of each week. All the steamers reached Bombay on Friday, but the contract time was exceeded on one occasion by 12 hours and 5 minutes, the delay being due in part to the S.S. "Mongolia" having arrived several hours late at Aden in consequence of a fire having broken out on board that steamer between Gibraltar and Marseilles, and partly to the connecting steamer, the "Caledonia," having been disabled between Aden and Bombay through a slight accident to her machinery. The shortest time occupied in the transit of the mail from London to Bombay was 13 days, 6 hours, and 10 minutes, while the average time for the year was 13 days, 11 hours, and 13 minutes. The quickest transit from Bombay to London was 13 days and 3 minutes, the average time for the year being 13 days, 15 hours, and 46 minutes.

Section I.—Post offices and postal communications.

(1) Post offices and letter-boxes.

Post offices
and letter-
boxes

7. Appendix I shows the number of post offices, letter-boxes and village postmen in each circle at the close of the year as compared with the corresponding figures at the close of the previous year. The number of post offices rose from 17,180 to 17,777 and of letter-boxes from 39,523 to 41,648, and the increases were distributed fairly evenly among the various circles. 11,387 post offices were in charge of school masters and other persons who are not regular servants of the Department, as against 10,851 at the end of 1906-07.

(2) Postal communications.

Postal com-
munications.

8. In Appendix I also are shown the distances over which mails were conveyed daily or oftener in both directions in each circle by the various agencies employed by this Department. The total figures for the last two years are given in the following statement.—

	NATURE OF POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS				
	Railway	Runners and boats.	Mail cart, tonga, etc.	Steamer.	TOTAL.
Mileage at close of 1906-07 . . .	27,954	96,034	9,199	20,419	153,606
" " of 1907-08 . . .	30,536	95,372	9,379	19,051	154,338
Increase or Decrease . . .	+2,582	-662	+180	-1,368	+732

Section II.—Correspondence and Parcels—Postage stamps.

(1) Correspondence and parcels.

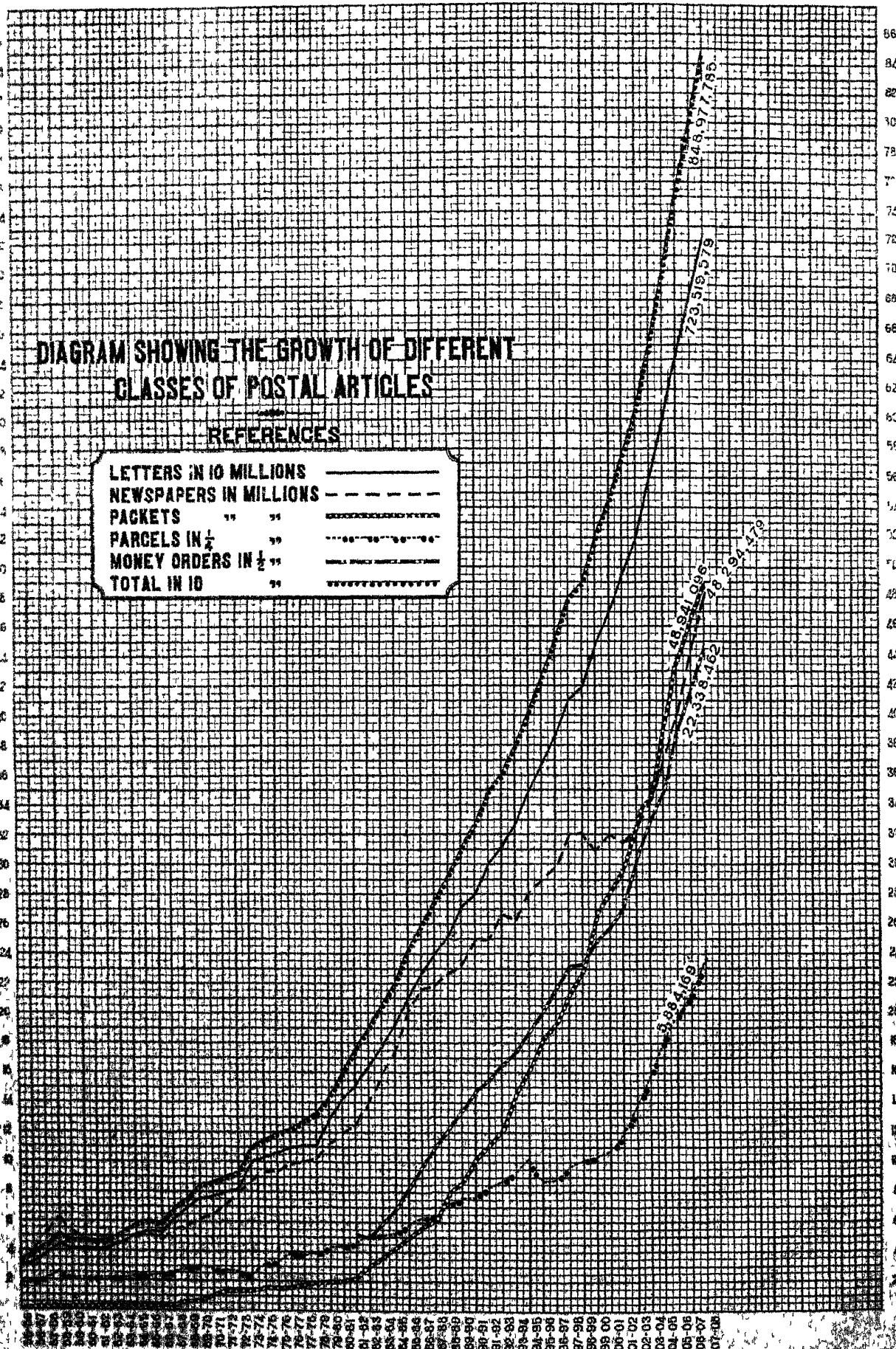
Statistics of
postal arti-
cles.

9. The estimated number of postal articles of all kinds, exclusive of money orders and parcels, issued for delivery during the year, added to the actual number of parcels, amounted to over 826½ millions, or more than 47 millions in excess

DIAGRAM SHOWING THE GROWTH OF DIFFERENT CLASSES OF POSTAL ARTICLES

REFERENCES

LETTERS IN 10 MILLIONS	—
NEWSPAPERS IN MILLIONS	- - - - -
PACKETS " "	=====
PARCELS IN $\frac{1}{4}$ "
MONEY ORDERS IN $\frac{1}{2}$ "	~~~~~
TOTAL IN 10	~~~~~



of the number during the preceding year. Statistics showing the different classes of articles delivered in the various postal circles during 1907-08 will be found in Appendix II, and a general summary of the results is given in the following statement —

Classes of postal articles	1906-07	1907-08.	Increase (+) or decrease (-)	Percentage of increase (+) or decrease (-)
Letters—paid	286,418,576	305,034,801	+ 18,616,225	+ 6.50
„ unpaid	36,100,195	38,304,900	+ 2,204,705	+ 6.11
„ registered	16,022,377	17,633,252	+ 1,610,875	+ 10.05
Total letters	338,541,148	360,972,953	+ 22,431,805	+ 6.63
Postcards	345,166,420	362,546,626	+ 17,380,206	+ 5.03
Total letters and postcards	683,707,568	723,519,579	+ 39,812,011	+ 5.82
Registered newspapers	44,045,566	48,294,479	+ 4,248,913	+ 9.65
Book and pattern packets	46,521,568	48,941,096	+ 2,419,528	+ 5.20
Total articles of the letter mail	774,274,702	820,755,154	+ 46,480,452	+ 6.00
Parcels—registered	3,474,034	3,856,147	+ 382,113	+ 11.00
„ unregistered	1,807,850	2,028,022	+ 220,172	+ 12.18
Total parcels	5,281,884	5,884,169	+ 602,285	+ 11.40
Grand total of all postal articles	779,556,586	826,639,323	+ 47,082,737	+ 6.04

It will be seen that there was, as usual, a large increase in the total number of articles issued for delivery under every head and that the numerical increase during 1907-08 was greater under the head of paid letters than under any other head of postal articles. The fact that the percentage of increase, namely 6.11, in the case of unpaid letters was smaller than in the two previous years and also smaller than the percentage of increase, namely, 6.50, in the case of paid letters issued for delivery during the year is noteworthy as having occurred in the year in which the grant of discount on the sale of postage stamps was discontinued. These figures show that this measure has not prejudiced the sales of stamps or placed any real difficulty in the way of the public obtaining stamps. The special steps referred to in paragraph 3 as having been taken by the Department no doubt contributed appreciably to this satisfactory result.

The hope was expressed in the last Annual Report that the reduction in the postage rates for parcels, which came into force on the 1st October 1907, would give a new stimulus to this branch of postal traffic. This hope has actually been realised, the total number of parcels, registered and unregistered, having risen from 5,281,884 in the previous year to 5,884,169, thus showing an increase of 602,285, or 11.40 per cent., as compared with an increase of 326,505, or 6.59 per cent., last year, and of 414,012, or 9.12 per cent., in the year before.

The diagram opposite this page shows graphically the growth of postal traffic in its principal branches since 1854.

10. The second table in Appendix I shows, for each postal circle, the number of post offices, letter-boxes, and postal articles in relation to area, population, and literate population.

Average number of postal articles per head of population.

Altogether there were 2792 postal articles—letters, postcards, packets, and parcels—per head of the total population and 5190 postal articles per head of the literate population. As in previous years, the number of postal articles per head of the general population was highest in Bombay where it was 605.

Foreign
correspondence.

11 The foreign correspondence received in India for delivery is included in the total figures contained in Appendix II. The number of letters and postcards received from the United Kingdom was 8910625, as compared with 8,637,102 in the preceding year, while 9,489,565 newspapers, book-packets and samples were received as compared with 11,507,783 in the previous year. The number of letters and postcards despatched to the United Kingdom from this country during 1907-08 was 7,881,421, as compared with 7,450,850, and the number of newspapers, book-packets and samples was 1,640,010, as compared with 1,553,219 during 1906-07. It may be explained that up to and including the year 1906-07, the figures relating to correspondence received from the United Kingdom were estimated on statistics of weight taken in respect of only two mails in the year, whereas, for the year under report, they have been calculated from actual weights recorded mail by mail throughout the whole year. Moreover, a change has been made in the method of calculating, from the recorded weights, the number of letters and postcards both sent and received; and, for the purpose of making a proper comparison of the results of the last two years, this new method has been applied to the recorded weights for the year 1906-07 as well as to those for the year under report. The figures representing the number of letters and postcards exchanged between India and the United Kingdom during 1906-07, as given above, differ, therefore, to some extent, from those given in the report for that year. The decrease in the figures showing the number of newspapers, book-packets and samples received from the United Kingdom in 1907-08 is probably due in a great measure to the fact that these figures are based on the actual weights of the articles in question received in each mail instead of on the weights ascertained in the case of two mails only, and also to some extent to the fact, mentioned in the Reports for previous years, that the outward packet-mail is particularly liable to fluctuations owing to variations in the numbers of pamphlets, trade-circulars, etc., sent out for distribution in India.

As regards the correspondence exchanged with countries other than the United Kingdom, the figures for several years past have been of no statistical value, as owing to the discontinuance, under the terms of the Principal Convention of Washington, of the Union statistics which used to be taken every three years, those figures were merely a repetition of the return based upon the statistics taken in 1896. Fresh statistics, however, were recorded in October 1907, and it is possible now to judge of the progress during the past 12 years. On the basis of the figures for the statistical periods of May 1896 and October 1907, the estimated number of letters and postcards received in India in 1907-08 from countries other than the United Kingdom was 4,032,145, as compared with 2,157,792 in 1895-96, while the number of newspapers, book-packets, and samples received rose from 1,348,685 in the latter year to 4,056,318 in 1907-08. The numbers of (1)—letters and postcards, and (2) newspapers, book-packets and samples despatched to such countries were 4,649,905 and 2,530,070, respectively, as compared with 2,109,500 and 1,611,921, respectively, in 1895-96.

Foreign
parcels.

12. The total number of parcels sent by the foreign post from this country was 265,707, as compared with 267,848 during the previous year, and the

number received was 326,705, as compared with 317,895 in 1906-07. There was thus a decrease of '8 per cent. in the number of foreign parcels despatched and an increase of 2'77 per cent. in the number received. The slight decrease in the case of parcels despatched was due altogether to the falling-off referred to below, in the outward parcel traffic to Ceylon.

The numbers of parcels sent to, and received from, the United Kingdom during the year under report were 125,457 and 239,021, respectively, as compared with 122,460 and 235,695, respectively, during 1906-07. The percentage which this traffic bears to the total of our foreign parcel traffic remains fairly stationary. In the exchange with Ceylon, while there was a marked and steady increase in the number of parcels received, a decrease occurred in the number despatched from India, the figures in the case of these parcels having fallen from 90,576 in 1906-07 to 84,154 in the year under report. This fall was due mainly to the operation of the new rule designed to prevent firms trading on what is known as the "Coupon" or "Snowball" system from availing themselves of the facilities afforded by the Value-payable system for the conduct of their business. In the case of the exchanges with countries other than the United Kingdom and Ceylon, there was a satisfactory development of the traffic in both directions, the numbers of parcels sent to and received from these countries during 1907-08 being 54,760 and 64,290, respectively, as compared with 53,357 and 59,757, respectively, in the previous year. In the direction from India the most important increases were in the despatches to France, Egypt, and the Far East, while in the opposite direction, the greatest increases were in the receipts from Egypt and Italy.

The numbers of parcels received at Bombay by the inward Christmas and New Year's mails were 9,577 and 10,685, respectively.

13. Appendix II shows that 826,639,323 letters, postcards, newspapers, packets, and parcels were issued for delivery, and these figures, added to the 22,830,365 money orders issued for payment, make a grand total for all these classes of articles of 849,469,688, as compared with 800,938,083 in 1906-07, being an increase of 6'06 per cent., as against an increase of 6'24 per cent. in the previous year. Of the total number of articles issued for delivery or payment, it is estimated that 807,849,495, or 95'10 per cent., were actually delivered or paid.

14. The total number of postal articles, excluding money orders, consigned to the several Dead Letter Offices was 8,443,149, representing an increase over the previous year of only 10'48 per cent., as against one of 19'68 per cent. in 1906-07 and of 21'29 per cent. in the preceding year. This result is in accordance with the opinion expressed by Mr. Stewart-Wilson in last year's report as to the effect that might be expected when the public came to understand the rules relating to postcards.

Appendix III contains detailed information as to the distribution among the Dead Letter Offices, and the manner of disposal, of the articles which reached those offices. More than 32 per cent. of the total number of articles were re-directed to the addressees; while nearly 46 per cent. were issued for return to the senders. Less than 8 per cent. of the total number of articles issued by the Dead Letter Offices came back to them undelivered, and the total number of articles finally deposited as "dead," that is, as undeliverable either to addressees or senders, was 2,332,182. This figure represents '28 per cent., or, about 3 in every thousand articles given out at post offices for delivery during the year, and includes a large number of articles which from their nature were not susceptible of

delivery, for example articles on which the senders failed to write any address at all. In articles opened in the five more important Dead Letter Offices, cheques, hundies, currency notes, bills of exchange, coins, and other property of the nominal value of more than 14 lakhs of rupees were found, and the majority of these articles were successfully delivered either to the addressees or the senders.

(2) Postage stamps

Sale of
postage
stamps and
stationery

15. Details of the issues from treasuries of ordinary postage stamps, postcards, embossed envelopes and wrappers and also of service postage stamps, postcards and envelopes will be found in Appendix IV. The total value of ordinary postage stamps and postal stationery issued during the year amounted to more than 231½ lakhs of rupees, showing an increase of over 9 lakhs over the value of issues during the previous year. The total value of service stamps issued exceeded 37½ lakhs, being an increase of more than 1½ lakhs upon last year's figure.

The issues of ordinary stamps were largest in the Bombay, Bengal and Madras Circles, where they amounted to over 50 lakhs, 46 lakhs and 42 lakhs, respectively.

The quarter-anna adhesive stamp continued to command the highest sale, the total number sold having increased from 140½ millions in the previous year to 151½ millions during the year under report. The quarter-anna single postcard had the next largest sale, but owing to the increasing popularity of the private postcard the sales which amounted to over 127 millions in the year under report were less by two millions than in the previous year. The half-anna adhesive stamp comes next, and its issues including the stamps in booklets were over 103 millions. This was followed by the small half-anna envelope, which is sold for the denominated value of the stamp, with issues of over 73½ millions, as against 75 millions in the previous year, the decrease being due to the introduction of the embossed half-anna thick square envelope at the end of the previous year, and the embossed half-anna commercial envelope during the year under report. The special envelopes and wrappers supplied by the Department for which a charge is made on account of stationery showed a general increase in the sales except in the case of the half-anna and one-anna newspaper wrappers, the old half-anna thin square envelopes, and the 2½-anna oblong envelopes. As regards service stamps and envelopes there was an increase in the sales of the stamps and envelopes of all denominations with the exception of the old half-anna thin and the one-anna thick square envelopes and the two-anna large registration envelopes.

In addition to postage stamps, non-judicial and court-fee stamps are sold at many post offices, but, except in Burma, the postmaster acts as a private vendor in respect of these stamps, and they do not form part of the post office balance. In Burma, where general stamps are kept by postmasters in the same way as postage stamps, the sales amounted to Rs2,609.

In August a new variety of envelope measuring 6×3½ inches, and bearing an embossed half-anna stamp, was introduced for commercial correspondence. These envelopes found immediate favour, and during the 8 months from August to the close of the year more than six hundred and sixty thousand of them were sold. The sales would have been even greater if the supply had been equal to the demand, but the initial supply which consisted of 3,000 reams was bought up so quickly that the entire stock of the envelopes in the country

became exhausted, and some months elapsed before a fresh supply could be obtained from England. Three new kinds of booklets of an improved design were also introduced to take the place of the two existing booklets which contained twelve annas worth of either one-anna or half-anna stamps, and were sold for twelve annas three pies each. The new booklets contain one rupee's worth of one-anna, half-anna, and both one-anna and half-anna stamps, respectively, and are sold for the value of the stamps without any additional charge on account of stationery or cost of manufacture. These booklets have been greatly appreciated and in the $7\frac{1}{2}$ months of the year during which they were on sale to the public more than three hundred and twenty-one thousand of them were sold.

Section III.—Insurance and Value-payable Post.

(1) Insurance.

16 During the year under report 856,386 letters and parcels were insured for transmission by the post, the aggregate insured value being over 22 $\frac{3}{4}$ crores of rupees. The following statement shows the year's business, as compared with that of the preceding year —

	INSURED LETTERS		INSURED PARCELS		TOTAL		
	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value	Insurance fees
		₹		₹		₹	₹
1906-07. . .	300,652	6,99,72,052	390,352	12,10,05,674	691,004	19,10,37,726	2,54,606
1907-08 .	378,101	8,47,18,535	478,285	14,34,32,449	856,386	22,81,50,984	3,08,425
Percentage of increase (+) or decrease (—)	+25.76	+21.07	+22.53	+18.47	+23.93	+19.43	+21.14

There was an increase of 23.93 per cent. in the total number of insured articles, of 19.43 per cent. in their value, and of 21.14 per cent. in the amount of the insurance fees.

The average amount for which each letter was insured was ₹224, as compared with ₹233 in the preceding year, and the average amount for which each parcel was insured was ₹299, as compared with ₹310 in 1906-07.

17. The number of claims for compensation in respect of insured articles was eighty-seven, as compared with fifty in the previous year. Of these, thirty-nine were admitted, the loss having been caused in twenty-eight cases by fraud or negligence on the part of postal servants, in one case by an accident and in the remaining ten cases by highway robbery. The total amount paid in satisfaction of these claims was ₹9,614-14-3, of which the sum of ₹1,403-8-7 was recovered, so that the actual loss to the Department was ₹8,211-5-8.

(2) Value-payable post.

18. The total number of value-payable articles of all kinds sent through the post was 6,165,600, as compared with 5,943,385 in the previous year. The total amount declared for recovery was more than 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees, as against something over 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ crores in the preceding year, while the amount of commission realised was ₹10,57,806, as compared with ₹9,44,490 in the year 1906-07. There was thus an increase of 3.74 per cent. in the number of articles, of 16.07 per cent. in the amount specified for recovery, and of 12.00 per cent. in the commission. The number of value-payable articles posted in Calcutta was

1,742,673 as compared with 1,544,094 in the preceding year, and the Department realised on the delivery of these articles and paid over to the tradesmen of Calcutta a total sum of Rs. 19,44,801, or nearly one and a half million pounds sterling. At Bombay also the value-payable business has now grown to large dimensions, the total number of value-payable articles posted in that city having risen to 904,039, as compared with 851,423 articles posted during the previous year and a sum of Rs. 1,08,70,647, or nearly three quarters of a million pounds sterling, was realised on the delivery of the articles and paid to the senders. The total number of value-payable articles posted at Madras was 566,257, as compared with 505,727 in the preceding year.

The increase extended to all classes of value-payable articles except unregistered packets. The continued falling-off in the number of the latter class of value-payable articles is probably due to the cause mentioned in last year's report, namely, the closing of firms which had been trading on the "Coupon" or "Snowball" system. The decrease was confined to the Punjab, the United Provinces, and the Rajputana Circles, where petty tradesmen had made the greatest use of this system. The average value of each value-payable article posted was Rs. 12-6-4, as compared with Rs. 11-1-0 in 1906-07.

The number of value-payable articles despatched from India to Ceylon was 67,140, of the aggregate value of Rs. 5,08,117, as compared with 74,394 articles valued at Rs. 4,42,518 in 1906-07.

Section IV.—Money Orders.

General
money
order
business

19 Appendix V(a) shows the entire money order transactions of the Department year by year for a period of ten years, separate figures being given for inland and foreign money orders. The total number of money orders issued during 1907-08 was 23,075,478, as compared with 21,620,813 in the previous year, and the total amount remitted was more than 41½ crores, as compared with about 38½ crores in the year 1906-07. Foreign money orders constitute, as usual, a small percentage (3·19) of the entire transactions of the year.

Inland
money
orders.

20. Appendix V(b) shows the issues and payments of inland money orders for 1907-08 according to postal circles and compares the results of the year with those of the previous year. About 22½ million inland money orders, ordinary and telegraphic, of the aggregate amount of nearly 38 crores of rupees, were issued during the year; and the commission amounted to over 43½ lakhs of rupees. There was an increase, over the transactions of the previous year, of 6·76 per cent in the number of inland money orders issued, of 7·69 in their amount, and of 7·53 in the amount of commission realised.

The average amount of an inland money order was Rs. 16-15-11, as compared with Rs. 16-13-7 in the preceding year.

Telegraphic
money
orders.

21. Appendix V(c) also gives separate figures for telegraphic money orders. There was a substantial increase both in the number and in the amount of such orders issued, as well as in the postal commission realised, which amounted to Rs. 2,76,567, as compared with Rs. 2,48,856 in the preceding year. The average amount of a telegraphic money order was Rs. 89-9-2, as compared with Rs. 93-8-8 for 1906-07.

Special
money order
business

22. The special classes of money orders for the payment of land revenue, rent, and miscellaneous Government dues are included under inland money orders in Appendix V(b), but separate figures are not shown there for these classes of orders.

The revenue money order system is in force in the Provinces of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam, and in the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province and Madras. In the Provinces of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam taken together, although the number of revenue money orders fell from 422,916 to 338,479, their value rose from Rs. 26,20,337 in 1906-07 to Rs. 26,63,417 during the year under report. In the Central Provinces, there was again a falling-off both in the number and amount, the number of orders decreasing from 21,708 to 17,543 and their amount from Rs. 16,051 to Rs. 7,19,250. In the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, the progress reported last year was not sustained, the number and amount of these orders being 17,093 and Rs. 15,40,156, respectively, as compared with 20,411 and Rs. 16,78,121 in 1906-07. In the United Provinces, although the number of orders increased from 221,696 to 245,113, the amount fell from Rs. 45,72,685 to Rs. 45,02,743. In Madras, the number of revenue money orders rose from 3,957 to 4,273 and their amount from Rs. 38,852 to Rs. 41,475. ^{(1) Revenue money orders}

The rent money order system is in force in the Provinces of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam, and in the United Provinces and the Central Provinces. In the Provinces of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam taken together, the number of orders decreased from 74,328 to 62,987 and their amount from Rs. 11,23,443 to Rs. 9,82,907. In the Central Provinces, the number of orders increased from 2,113 to 2,246 and the amount from Rs. 45,220 to Rs. 48,335. In the United Provinces, the number of rent money orders was 110,962 of the aggregate amount of Rs. 13,49,569, as compared with 126,716 orders of the aggregate amount of Rs. 16,24,984 in the year 1906-07. ^{(2) Rent money orders}

The system of remitting other miscellaneous Government dues by money orders is in force in the Provinces of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam, and in the United Provinces, the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province, Madras, and Burma. In the Provinces of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam taken together, the progress reported in previous years was fully maintained. The number of official money orders increased from 101,356 to 137,214 and their amount from Rs. 27,98,275 to Rs. 29,61,432. In the United Provinces, the number of orders rose from 47,233 to 77,105 and their amount from Rs. 8,83,469 to Rs. 11,28,794. In Madras, the number of official money orders was 8,054 of the aggregate amount of Rs. 1,12,727, as compared with 7,654 orders in 1906-07 amounting to Rs. 1,94,460. In the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, the number of these orders fell from 7,838 to 5,261 and their amount from Rs. 2,38,279 to Rs. 1,78,975; while in Burma, the number increased from 76 in the previous year to 287 in the year under report and the aggregate amount from Rs. 3,124 to Rs. 9,825. ^{(3) Remittances of miscellaneous Government dues by money orders}

23. Figures relating to the money order exchanges with foreign countries will be found in Appendix V (c), which shows both sterling money order exchanges, which are in force with the United Kingdom and its Colonies and with foreign countries generally, and rupee money order exchanges, which are in force chiefly with countries and places in the Far East and Africa. The money order transactions with the Native States of India which have separate postal arrangements are also included, for the purpose of convenience, in this Appendix. ^{Foreign money order business.}

The total number of sterling money orders issued by India rose from 121,562 in 1906-07 to 123,375, this result being due to an increase of nearly 2,000 in the number of remittances sent by money order to the United Kingdom. ^{(1) Sterling money orders.}

The number of sterling money orders received for payment in this country also rose from 68,727 in 1906-07 to 73,641 and this increase was due to the number of remittances received from the United Kingdom having risen from 25,991 in 1906-07 to 31,792 in the year under report.

In the case of issues from India the average amount of a sterling money order was £3 8s. 1d., as compared with £3 5s. 5d. and in the case of payments £10 10s. 7d., as compared with £9 16s. 0d. in the preceding year.

(2) Rupee money orders

In the rupee money order exchanges the chief transactions consist of remittances to India which showed a marked increase during the year, the total number of rupee orders received for payment in this country being 273,039, as compared with 251,666 in 1906-07. There was a rise of 12,772 in the number of orders from Ceylon, of 5,298 from the Federated Malay States, of 3,958 from the Straits Settlements, of 1,147 from Portuguese India and of 637 from British East Africa. On the other hand, there was a fall of 1,223 in the number of money orders received from Hong Kong, of 767 from Mauritius, and of 459 from German East Africa.

The average amount of a rupee money order was R40-0-10, as compared with R38-14-9 in 1906-07, in the case of issues from India; and R47-5-5, as compared with R47-9-0 in the preceding year, in the case of payments.

British postal orders

24. During the year there was a further increase in the sales of British postal orders, the total number sold being 259,216, as compared with 207,751 in the preceding year, and their total value (including poundage) being £178,937, as compared with £139,673 in 1906-07. The chief increases occurred in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, and in Bengal and Bombay. Of the total number of British postal orders sold, 127,805 were of the value of £1, while 31,198 were of the 10s. denomination, and 20,517 of the value of 5s. each. Thirty-seven thousand one hundred and seventy-eight orders of the aggregate value of £24,920 17s. 6d. were paid in this country in 1907-08 and of these, 4,395 of the value of £2,381 3s. 0d. were orders issued and paid in India, as compared with 3,474 of the value of £2,025 6s. 6d. and paid in the preceding year.

Section V.—Post Office Savings Banks.

General results of the year.

25. Appendix VI shows in detail, according to postal circles, the Savings Bank transactions of the year, as compared with those of the previous year. There were 1,262,763 active accounts in existence on the 31st March 1908, showing a net increase of 72,543 or 6·09 per cent. The total amount at credit of depositors at the close of the year exceeded 15 crores 18 lakhs, and was 41 lakhs or 2·80 per cent more than the balance at the close of the preceding year.

The withdrawals, exclusive of all transfers, increased by over ninety-one lakhs and the interest paid by over one and a half lakhs, while the increase in the amount deposited was over fifty-three and a half lakhs.

The 1,262,763 active accounts were composed of—

	Crores.	Lakhs.
60,703 Security deposit accounts with a balance of	R	0 68
8,595 Public accounts with a balance of	"	0 48½
432 Regimental and other conjoint accounts with a balance of	"	0 13½
153,450 Minors' accounts with a balance of	"	2 58½
1,039,583 Ordinary accounts with a balance of	"	11 30½

The figures show that 94.47 per cent. of the accounts, and 91.44 of the total balance of 15 crores 18 lakhs represent savings of private persons. Of the total number of accounts open at the close of the year, 1,193,033 were held by private persons. In only 6,384 of these accounts were deposits subject to 6 months' notice of withdrawal, the deposits in all the remaining accounts being at call. The number of accounts held by natives of the country represents 91.24 per cent. of the total number open at the close of the year.

26. In appendix VI will be found a classification, according to their occupation, of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank. It will be seen that as in the preceding year the largest number of accounts were held by the undermentioned classes of depositors in the following order :—

- (1) Persons of no occupation or whose incomes are derived from others, classed as "Indefinite" in the statement,
- (2) the professional class, and
- (3) the domestic class

27. The number of Government promissory notes purchased through the Post Office was 3,607 of the nominal value of Rs 19,31,000, as compared with 3,687 of the nominal value of Rs 22,38,100 in the previous year. The number of Government promissory notes sold was 675 of the nominal value of Rs 4,14,103, as compared with 471 of the nominal value of Rs 2,78,200 in the preceding year. The nominal value of the Government promissory notes held in the custody of the Comptroller, Post Office, at the close of the year on account of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank, was Rs 51,51,800, as compared with Rs 41,57,400 on the 31st March 1907. The value of securities in the custody of the Comptroller, Post Office, in the 3½ per cent. loans was Rs 50,90,100, and in the 3 per cent. loans Rs 61,700. During the year under report, 1,473 investment certificates for fractional amounts of Government promissory notes of the nominal value of Rs 3,58,006 were purchased, as compared with 1,074 investment certificates of the nominal value of Rs 2,07,566 purchased in the previous year. The number of investment certificates sold was 656 of the nominal value of Rs 83,535, as compared with 306 of the nominal value of Rs 25,692 sold in the preceding year.

28. An estimate of the financial result of the working of the Savings Bank is given below, as directed in Resolution No. 2428 of the 13th May 1902, issued by Government in the Finance and Commerce Department :—

RECEIPTS.	Amount.	EXPENDITURE.	Amount
	R		R
Interest at 3½ per cent per annum on the balance of the deposits	53,38,636	Interest actually paid to depositors.	43,18,017
		Estimated cost of managing the bank	5,50,000
TOTAL	53,38,636	TOTAL	48,68,017

Section VI.—Miscellaneous.

29. The following statement shows the transactions of the Post Office Guarantee Fund. The balance at the credit of the Fund, including the nominal value of Government securities purchased on its behalf, rose from Rs 10,45,760 on the 31st March 1907 to Rs 10,63,288 on the 31st March 1908. The amount decreed against the Fund in connection with frauds committed by officials of the Department was Rs 11,852, as compared with Rs 16,444 in the

previous year and with an average amount of R12,412 in the last ten years. A sum of R36,300 was added to the Fund during the year on account of interest —

RECEIPTS				CHARGES			
	Government Securities (nominal value)	Cash			Government Securities (nominal value)	Cash.	
	R	R	R		R	R	
Balance of 1906-07	7,34,000	.	3,11,760	Refund on account of excess realisation	...		
Interest given by Government on R3,00,000 at 4 per cent from April 1907 to March 1908	..		12,000	Sums decreed against the Fund			11,852
Interest on Govt. securities—				Refund to subscribers on account of returnable subscriptions	..		1,142
(1) on 3½ per cent loans		15,540		Rewards for specially courageous service and for information in Post Office robbery cases			6,028
(2) on 3 per cent. loans		8,760	24,300	Compensation to postal servants for loss of private property			1,965
Recoveries against awards made in previous years	1,558	Cost of purchasing Government securities (3½ per cent loan of 1900-01, with accrued interest up to date of purchase)	...		14,343
Government Promissory Notes purchased during the year	15,000	Balance on 31st March 1908	7,49,000		3,14,288
	7,49,000		3,49,618		7,49,000*		3,49,618

* Market value on 31st March 1908—R6,70,828

Complaints by the public.

30. The number of complaints recorded as having been made by the public was 46,718 against 42,185 in 1906-07, being an increase of 10 per cent. The percentage of cases in which the complaints were found to be well-founded was 32·26 and the percentage of entirely groundless complaints was 39·18 per cent. In the remaining cases either it was not possible to arrive at a definite conclusion, or the investigations had not been completed by the end of the year.

Complaints regarding special classes of articles.

31. During the year under report 3,804 complaints were received regarding the special classes of postal articles shown in the following statement :—

	Registered articles (other than parcels and insured and v-p articles).	Ordinary registered parcels.	Insured letters and insured parcels.	Value-payable registered articles of all kinds.	Total for 1907-08	Total for 1906-07.
Number of complaints received	1,912	1,074	229	589	3,804	2,850

Out of the total of 3,804 complaints, 2,143 were found to be groundless, that is to say, the enquiry showed either that no loss had occurred, or that the loss had not occurred through the fault of a postal official. In 748 cases no definite conclusion had been arrived at by the end of the year, and in 913 cases, or 24 per cent. of the total, the complaints were well grounded. If these complaints are classified according to the special classes of articles to which they relate, it will be found that during the year 225 well-grounded complaints were made in respect of 2,369,180 ordinary registered parcels, 55 in respect of 856,386 insured articles, 185 in respect of 2,840,484 value-payable registered articles, and 448 in respect of 16,579,160 registered articles of other kinds.

The number of inland registered articles in respect of which claims for compensation were dealt with was 288 as compared with 103 in the previous year. Compensation amounting to R1,437-1-3 was paid in respect of 110 articles, while applications for compensation in the case of 107 articles

were rejected. Enquiries had not been completed in regard to 71 articles at the close of the year

32. The number of cases in the several postal circles in which servants of the Post Office were

	1906-07		1907-08	
	Number of cases	Number of offenders	Number of cases	Number of offenders
Convictions in courts of law Cases departmentally punished	251	241	230	239
	122	122	174	175
	373	363	404	414

held to be guilty of offences punishable by law and the number of servants of the Post Office punished in those cases are shown in Appendix VII, and a summary of the figures

is given on the margin. There were 69 cases of misappropriation of office cash, 153 money order frauds, 10 savings bank frauds, and 84 cases of theft from mails or post offices. Most of the remaining offences were committed in respect of letters, parcels, or other postal articles entrusted to the Post Office for conveyance. Among the offenders convicted or departmentally punished were 29 departmental postmasters and 30 clerks, 83 extraneous agents in charge of post offices, 186 postmen and village postmen, and 31 runners. The defalcations and losses amounted to Rs 36,856-4-10, as compared with Rs 53,931-1-0½ in the previous year. Rs 19,932-1-10 were recovered from the offenders or their sureties, Rs 2,912-8-10 were decreed against the Guarantee Fund, Rs 376-7-10 were written off as irrecoverable, and Rs 13,635-2-4 remained unadjusted at the close of the year.

A case of fraud by a branch postmaster may be mentioned here, although it is not one of those referred to in the summary of figures above, as the offence was not committed by the man in his official capacity. In 1906, the extra-departmental agent in charge of the Maruter branch office in the Kistna District of the Madras Presidency, who was also the Secretary of a Provident Fund known as the "Maruter Mutual Benefit Society," conceived the idea of advertising a lottery which he named the K. M. M. B. S. lottery,—these letters representing the name of the Provident Fund with which he was connected. Printed handbills were circulated by him through agents, in which a glowing account was given of the prizes to be won and in which it was stated that the lottery would be drawn by the "Hindu Benefit Club" at Benares on the 30th June 1906, and that the Manager was one A. N. Roy. Tickets were printed in the form of books, and the agents were directed to send the amounts realised to Benares to the address of A. N. Roy, Manager, K. M. M. B. S. lottery. The branch postmaster wrote to the Benares City post office in his private capacity to redirect all the money orders to Samalkot, in the Godavari District, up to the 13th July 1906, and thereafter to Calcutta, and at the same time he instructed the Samalkot post office to keep all the money orders in deposit until his arrival. He came occasionally to Samalkot and obtained payment of the money orders by making the sub-postmaster believe that he was the Manager to whom the money orders were payable. On receipt of complaints from the remitters of some of the money orders that the acknowledgments had not been received by them, an enquiry was made at Samalkot, and it was then discovered that there was no "Hindu Benefit Club" and that the "K. M. M. B. S. lottery" was a swindle. The branch postmaster was prosecuted, and, on conviction, was sentenced, in August 1907, to undergo rigorous imprisonment for two years and to pay a fine of Rs 1,000.

Offences
by other
persons

33 The offences against the Post Office committed by persons not belonging to the Department included twelve cases of money order frauds involving a sum of R494-5-0 and one case of fraudulent withdrawal from the savings bank of a sum amounting to R25. There were also 86 cases of theft of Government money from the mails and post offices, besides 31 cases of highway robbery which are dealt with separately. The total amount stolen was R7,256-9-5, of which R3,999-5-4 were recovered, R793-11-6 were written off as finally lost, and R2,463 8-7 remained unadjusted at the close of the year.

Highway
robberies
of the mail

34 There were thirty-two highway robberies of the mails compared with twenty-four in the previous year, twenty-nine occurring in British territory and three in Native States.

Twelve of the robberies that occurred in British territory took place in the United Provinces, six in Madras, five in the Punjab, two each in Bengal and Burma, and one each in Bombay and Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Two cases were unfortunately attended with loss of life. In August 1907, a runner in the Jhelum District in the Punjab failed to arrive at his destination at the usual time, and, on a search being made, his dead body was found on the road at a distance of about half a mile from the post office at Buchal Kalan to which he was proceeding. His throat was cut and a remittance of R300, which had been enclosed in the mail bag entrusted to his care, was missing. The murderer has remained undiscovered. A Lambardar, who was arrested by the police on suspicion and prosecuted, was discharged by the trying Magistrate for want of evidence. The second case took place on the Didwana to Sujangarh mail line in the Marwar State (Rajputana) on the 22nd December 1907. The mail for Sujangarh was despatched from Didwana in charge of a camel sowar escorted by two other sowars riding on another camel. When the sowars had reached a place about six miles from Didwana, they were attacked suddenly from behind by four men armed with clubs. The mail sowar was stunned and fell to the ground with the whole weight of the camel saddle and the mail bags on top of him and, in the hand-to-hand fight which then took place between the robbers and the escort sowars, the latter were beaten, receiving severe injuries, to the effects of which one of them succumbed in hospital. The robbers carried off the entire mail, which contained several insured and registered articles, but no cash. They have not been traced, nor have the mails been recovered.

Another case, though fortunately not one attended with any loss of life, may be mentioned. On the night of the 4th February 1908, while the mails from the Karachi Camp and Cantonment post offices were being conveyed in a mail van to the Karachi head office in charge of a clerk and a packer, a party of four Pathans stopped the mail van, and, after knocking the driver and the clerk off their seats and wounding the packer, began to plunder the mails. The robbers had removed only one mail bag when the horse bolted with the mail van and came to a stand at the head post office with the packer still inside the van. The police investigated the matter, but failed to discover the robbers. Luckily the stolen mail bag contained nothing of value.

In only eleven of the cases of highway robbery did Government suffer loss to a total amount of R2,884-7-6. Of this amount, a sum of R551-9-0 represented cash and stamps stolen from the mails, and R2,332-14-6 the amount of the compensation which had to be paid for the loss of registered and insured articles. The entire mail was recovered in seven, and part of the mail in sixteen other cases, while, in the remaining nine cases,

the whole mail was lost. Seven prosecutions were instituted, in six of which convictions were obtained.

In addition to the cases of actual highway robbery mentioned above, there were two unsuccessful attempts to rob the mails both of which took place in British territory.

Fortunately no case calling for notice in this or the next paragraph occurred on the Chitral line, the mail arrangements of which are controlled by Khan Bahadur Arouh Abdul Raul Khan, Native Assistant and Inspector of Levies, Dir, whose valuable services to this Department deserve mention in this report.

35. There were various other cases during the year in which the lives of postal servants were lost. Mr. Charles Rodericks, an Inspector of post offices in the Myitkina District of Upper Burma, in the course of a tour of inspection on which he was accompanied by his servant, left Kazu on the 20th April 1907 for Sima, 22 miles distant on the Chinese frontier, but never reached his destination. His servant arrived alone at Sima, and as soon as it was realised that Mr. Rodericks was missing, search parties were sent out and eventually, on the 24th April 1907, the body of Mr. Rodericks was discovered on the spur of a hill at the end of a disused path in the jungle about a couple of miles upstream from Kazu. It is surmised that Mr. Rodericks, having left the main road in search of a short cut, lost his way and eventually died of exhaustion. On the 7th July 1907 a boat containing three mail runners, while proceeding down the Karnaphuli river in the Hill Tracts of Chittagong to bring up mails, was capsized near a place called Bhallukdiah. Two of the runners swam ashore but the third was drowned. On the night of the 8th November 1907, a runner who was conveying mails on the Ratnagiri-Chiplun mail line in the Konkan Division was bitten by a venomous snake and died shortly afterwards. On the 11th December 1907 the mail peon attached to the Sangla post office in the Gujranwala District, in endeavouring to exchange mails with the mail sorters in a moving train, slipped off the foot-board of the mail van and fell between the platform and the train, sustaining severe injuries from the effects of which he died. On the 1st March 1908, a runner while carrying mails from Chumbi over the Jelap Pass was caught in a blizzard and frozen to death.

There was no loss of life from avalanches in the mountain passes. In one case, however, which occurred on the 15th February 1908, a party of thirteen coolies carrying parcel mails over the Gilgit line was overtaken by an avalanche and six of the men received slight injuries.

During the year, thirty post offices were destroyed by fire, three damaged by storms and one collapsed owing to a flood.

36. Appendix VIII, an abstract of which is given in the margin, shows the

POSTAL OFFICIALS	1906-07	1907-08.
Chief officers of the Direction, Account officers, and Heads of Circles, and Superintendent, Workshop, Aligarh	28	33
Superintendents, Probationary Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, and Inspectors	564	594
Postmasters, including Deputy, Assistant, Sub and Branch Postmasters	6,514	6,590
Extraneous Agents, such as schoolmasters and station-masters	10,851	11,387
Clerks	12,315	12,715
Postmen and other servants	23,325	24,054
Road establishment	20,642	20,639
Village postmen	8,383	8,335
Signallers and other servants employed for telegraph work in combined offices	3,251	3,453
TOTAL	85,873	88,400

entire staff of the Department, the numbers in the different classes being shown separately for each postal circle. On the 31st March 1908, the numerical strength of the Post Office establishment was 88,400 as compared with 85,873 at

the close of 1906-07 The staff of the Post Office included 258 pensioned

soldiers of the Native Army, of whom 68 were non-commissioned officers and 190 sepoy. The number of women employed in the Post Office was 70, all of whom except 6 were either Europeans or Eurasians.

The total number of servants of the Department who were dismissed was 534. Of this number 229 were postmen and village postmen and 40 belonged to the road establishment.

Use of private presses 37 The charges incurred during the year on account of printing work done by private presses amounted to R16,021 as compared with R12,866 in the year 1906-07.

Section VII.—Non-postal Branches of the Post Office.

Partial tele-
graph
offices

38 During the year under report 124 combined post and telegraph offices were opened, and 17 previously existing offices were closed. There was, therefore, a net increase of 107 in the total number of combined offices as compared with a net increase of 129 during 1906-07 and 112 during 1905-06. Of the 124 new combined offices 120 were opened at places which had previously been without a Government Telegraph office and 87 at places where there had previously been neither a Government nor a Railway Telegraph office. The total number of combined offices open on the 31st March 1908 was 2,265 as compared with 2,158 on the 31st March of the preceding year. The number of postal servants who qualified as signallers was 529 and the total number of signallers employed was 3,254 as compared with 3,056 at the close of 1906-07. There were 1,029 boys employed as messengers in these offices as compared with 997 at the close of the preceding year.

Traffic
statistics
of combined
offices

39. In Appendix IX will be found the traffic statistics of combined offices. There was an increase of 850,861 or 16.13 per cent. in the number of messages sent; of 761,160 or 14.57 per cent. in the number received; and of R3,67,381 or 11.86 per cent. in the revenue realised on sent messages as compared with the figures of the previous year. The revenue from messages despatched from combined offices amounted to R34,64,784 as compared with R30,97,402 during the preceding year while the total number of messages (excluding free messages) sent was 6,123,137 and the number received was 5,984,587.

Telegraph
receiving
offices.

40. In addition to the telegrams sent and received by the 2,265 combined offices, there were 65,821 telegrams booked at receiving post offices for despatch by post to telegraph offices as compared with 67,335 in the previous year. The revenue realised on these telegrams was R35,326 as compared with R36,206 in 1906-07.

The number of telegrams received at post offices in the Persian Gulf on account of the Indo-European Telegraph Department was 615 against 312 in the year 1906-07, and fees to the amount of R3,426 were realised, as compared with R1,841 in the previous year.

Carrying
Agency on
the Kalka-
Simla line.

41. The gross expenditure on the tonga service between Kalka and Simla was R1,55,838 as compared with R1,49,823 in the previous year. The receipts amounted to R22,416 as compared with R44,025 in 1906-07. The decrease in the revenue was due to the fact that passengers made little use of the tonga service while during the year 1906-07 the Kalka-Simla Railway was practically closed for a month owing to heavy rains and consequently the demand for tongas was very great. The difference between the receipts and expenditure on the line, amounting to R1,33,422, represents the cost to the Department of carrying the entire mails between Kalka and Simla, and this amount is not excessive considering that during the year under review 4,596 tonga-loads of mails were carried over the line.

42. The Post Office continued to be utilised to a small extent as an agency for the receipt of salt revenue at certain selected offices in the Punjab, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, and Rajputana, and, as will be seen from the following figures, there was an increase in the business done through the Post Office as compared with the previous year —

		1907-08	1906-07
Post offices authorised to receive salt revenue	No	297	291
Indents received	No	1,473	1,267
Quantity of salt indented for	Mds	364,921	303,245
Value	R	4,24,526	4,93,199
Postal commission realised	R	926	851

43. The Post Office continued also to act as an agency for the sale of quinine to the public, and the supplies obtained for sale by post offices amounted to about 6,677 lbs., as compared with 7,403 lbs. in the previous year. The decrease was heaviest in the Madras Circle, where the falling-off was due to the large supply obtained in the previous year as described in the last Annual Report. In other Circles where the sales declined the decrease was due to the abatement of plague, to the opening out of new agencies for the sale of Government quinine, and in the case of the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle partly to misrepresentations that the drug contained poison, with the result that the village postmen of the Derajat Division were threatened with violence and had to deny that they sold quinine or had any in their possession.

44. Appendix X shows the operations of the scheme of Life Insurance, Endowment Assurance, and Monthly Allowances, as compared with those of the previous year, and Appendix XI shows the financial results of the administration of the Postal Insurance Fund up to the end of the year under report. During the year 3,166 new policies were issued of the aggregate value of R34,40,876, of which 537 of the aggregate value of R6,27,250 were Life Insurance policies, while 2,629 of the aggregate value of R28,13,626 were policies of Endowment Assurance. The total sum realised on account of premia on both old and new policies amounted to R8,73,971 as compared with R7,77,879 in the previous year. Claims to the extent of R3,48,190 were discharged as compared with payments amounting to R2,42,835 during the preceding year, and fifty-four Life Insurance policies representing a gross assurance of R71,300, ninety-two Endowment Assurance policies representing R84,707 and one Monthly Allowance contract for R6 either lapsed or were surrendered or cancelled. The lapses and surrenders during 1906-07 were sixty-nine Life Insurance policies representing a gross assurance of R79,750 and one hundred and twenty-one Endowment Assurance policies representing R1,21,223.

Of the 3,166 persons holding policies issued during the year, 2,990 were pure Asiatics by race. One woman employed under Government was insured, so that there are now twelve female policy-holders in all.

The general results of the past two years are summarised below :—

Life Insurance and Endowment Assurance.	Up to 31st March 1907.	Up to 31st March 1908
Number of lives insured	14,941	18,107
	R	R
Amount received in premia	52,48,754	61,22,725
Amount of Insurance	2,17,44,368	2,51,85,244
Amount of claims met	16,46,816	19,95,006

* At the close of the year there were 15,458 active policies in existence representing an aggregate insurance of R2,17,11,132, of which 6,587 were held by Post Office servants and 8,871 by persons employed in other Departments. Ten new contracts for Monthly Allowances were entered into during the year, and there were 123 such contracts in existence at the end of the year, the total of the Monthly Allowances contracted for being R1,148-0-2.

Four Life Annuities were purchased from the Post Office under Article 107 of the *Civil Service Regulations*.

Part of
military
pensioners

45 The pensions of 33,143 pensioners of the Native Army were paid through the agency of the Post Office in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle as compared with 30,800 in 1906-07, and the amount paid on this account was R22,61,195-10-11 as compared with R22,54,735-6-0 in the previous year. The commission credited to the Post Office as remuneration for this special service was R16,958-15-4.

Section VIII — Financial Results.

Receipts
and
charges

46 The following table is a summary of the receipts and charges of the year as shown in the Post Office Accounts and given in Appendix XII —

	RECEIPTS		CHARGES	
	1906-07	1907-08	1906-07	1907-08
	R	R	R	R
1. Postal service proper . . .	2,62,18,862	2,73,17,679	2,18,30,621	2,42,63,006
2. Non-postal branches—				
(a) Mail cart, parcel van, passenger and goods service	44,551	22,946	44,551	22,946
(b) Mail steamer subsidies	11,48,202	13,15,436
(c) Contributions from Native States	6,000	6,000
TOTAL	2,62,69,413	2,73,46,625	2,30,23,374	2,56,01,388

According to the figures shown above, the charges for 1907-08 appear to have exceeded those for 1906-07 by R25,78,014, but this is not really the case, for in the figure for 1906-07 no charge was included on account of the cost of unified and postage stamps, while the figure for 1907-08 includes no less than R8,72,438 on that account. If this sum and the amount of R6,07,812 representing the net cost during the year of unremunerative establishments formerly paid from District Post funds are deducted from the charges for 1907-08 and the sum of R10,09,410 representing the gross expenditure during 1906-07 on account of unremunerative establishments formerly paid from District Post funds is, at the same time, deducted from the charges for that year the excess is reduced to R21,07,174 as compared with the sum of R16,06,585 representing the excess in the charges for 1906-07 over those for 1905-06, exclusive, in each case, of the gross expenditure on account of unremunerative establishments formerly paid from District Post funds.

47 Appendix XII shows also, under a distinct head (III), certain charges which appear in the Finance and Revenue Accounts but not in the Post Office Accounts. These

	R
District Post Establishments in Baluchistan	70,006
Stores from England	15,900
Payments under postal arrangements with Lords of the Treasury	2,01,800
TOTAL	9,88,006

charges are reproduced in the margin and, if added to those given in the table in the preceding paragraph, the total charges of the year amount to Rs. 2,65,89,394. It will thus be seen that there was a surplus of Rs. 7,57,231 on the year's transactions as shown in the Finance and Revenue Accounts. In order, however, to arrive at the true financial result of the year's administration it is necessary to exclude

	DETAILS	TOTAL
	R	R
<i>Add to charges—</i> Railway free service estimated	23,427	
Rent of Government buildings	5,33,000	
Gratuities	6,086	
Leave allowance paid out of India	10,549	
Pensions (being the average of five years, capitalized at 10 1/2 years' purchase)	10,75,402	
		16,48,501
<i>Deduct—</i> Share of Marine subsidies which should strictly have been borne by the Military, Political and other departments	5,28,124	
Postage on unpaid officers' correspondence sent from India to the United Kingdom (formerly collected and brought into account)	11,958	
		5,40,092
Net amount to be added		11,08,412

from the charges the sum of Rs. 70,306 on account of District Post Establishments in Baluchistan and to add the net balance (Rs. 11,08,412) of the items shown in the margin. The result is that the charges exceed the receipts by Rs. 2,80,875. After

taking credit for the sum of Rs. 6,07,812 representing the net expenditure during the year on account of unremunerative establishments formerly paid from District Post funds, the net surplus for the year amounts to Rs. 3,26,937 as compared with Rs. 23,33,569 for 1906-07 and Rs. 15,11,417 for 1905-06. The figure for 1906-07 was, however, arrived at without debiting the Post Office with the cost of unified and postage stamps and, moreover, included a credit of Rs. 10,09,410 on account of unremunerative establishments formerly paid from District Post funds as compared with the sum of Rs. 6,07,812, for which credit has been taken on the same account in respect of the year 1907-08. Taking the cost of unified and postage stamps to have been the same for 1906-07 as for 1907-08 and deducting this sum (Rs. 8,72,438) and also the difference between the sums of Rs. 10,09,410 and Rs. 6,07,812, from the apparent net surplus of Rs. 23,33,569 for 1906-07, the amount for 1906-07 is reduced to Rs. 10,59,533 as compared with the net surplus of Rs. 3,26,937 for the year under report. The falling-off of Rs. 7,32,596 thus arrived at may be attributed partly to a smaller increase in revenue owing to the alterations in the scales of letter and parcel postage which were introduced on the 1st October 1907, and partly to an increase in expenditure mainly under the head of grain compensation allowance.

This estimate of the financial position of the Post Office does not take into account the services rendered by the Department to Government in the management of the Post Office Savings Bank, in carrying official correspondence at exceptionally low postage rates during the first six months of the year, and in the maintenance of a number of unremunerative mail lines which are required for military or administrative purposes.

Financial
result of
working the
posts in
Kashmir.

48 The following figures show the financial result of the amalgamation of the posts in Kashmir with the Imperial Post Office.

The amalgamation took place in November 1894 and, except in 1905-06, when there was a small surplus, the working of the Kashmir post offices has always resulted in a loss, owing to the very expensive lines which have to be maintained to serve Gilgit and Leh. The total revenue was Rs 1,60,307 as compared with Rs 1,45,588 in 1906-07 and Rs 1,78,785 in 1905-06. The expenditure during 1907-08 was Rs 2,14,483 against Rs 2,01,482 in 1906-07 and Rs 1,77,840 in 1905-06, the actual deficit during the year being Rs 54,176. The increase in revenue was normal while the rise in expenditure was chiefly due to an increase in the number and pay of the overseers and runners on the Gilgit and Leh mail lines and to the employment of additional establishment in the Srinagar head office.

Section IX — Notice of Officers

Mention of
officers of
the Depart-
ment.

49. In carrying out the numerous important reforms which were introduced during the year, Mr. Stewart-Wilson was ably assisted by all the Heads of Circles and officers of the Direction.

Of the Superintendents and postmasters who rendered specially good service, the following officers deserve to be mentioned. Mr. Lane Ryan for the resource displayed by him during the strike on the East Indian Railway, Mr. Stephen for the valuable help which he rendered to the Postmaster-General, Burma; Mr. Duncan for the ability with which he assisted in organising the new Eastern Bengal and Assam Circle, and Messrs. Barker, Murtrie, Buckner and Muthusawmy Pillai for their efficient work as postmasters.

The name of Niaz Hussain, Investigating Assistant Superintendent, also came specially to notice for the successful enquiries made by him in a number of fraud cases.

During the year the Post Office lost the services of several valued officers by the retirement of Khan Bahadur C. J. Lalkaka, Postmaster-General, Burma, Mr. E. C. O'Brien, Inspector-General, Railway Mail Service, and Rai Salig Ram Bahadur, Superintendent of post offices, 2nd grade, while the death of Mr. J. Owens, who had retired a short time before from the position of Presidency Postmaster, Calcutta, was much regretted in the Department which he had served so long and ably.

Just before the close of the year the death also occurred of Rai Daulat Ram Bahadur, C.I.E., an officer who retired in 1903 after a long and honourable career in the Post Office.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

W. MAXWELL,

Offg. Director-General of the Post Office of India.

SCHEDULE OF PRINCIPAL STEAM SERVICES, 1907-08.

By the British India Steam Navigation Company

- (1) Direct communication three times a week between Calcutta and Rangoon
- (2) Weekly communication between Chittagong, Akub, Kyaukpyu, San loway and Rangoon
- (3) Weekly direct communication between Madras and Rangoon
- (4) Communication three times a week between Rangoon and Moulmein
- (5) Weekly communication between Rangoon Tavoy and Mergui
- (6) For nightly communication between Moulmein Yeh, Palaw, Tavoy, Mergui and Bokpyin
- (7) Weekly direct communication between Bombay and Karachi
- (8) Weekly communication between Bombay and Karachi *via* the Coast ports
- (9) Weekly communication between Karachi and Busrah *via* the Persian Gulf ports
- (10) Weekly communication between Karachi and Busrah *via* the *principal* Persian Gulf ports
- (11) Daily communication between Tuticorin and Colombo
- (12) Fortnightly service from Negapatam to the Straits
- (13) Additional services between any of the ports served by the above-mentioned lines between any of the ports on the Coromandel Coast and Rangoon, and between Burma and the Straits.

Under contract with the Post Office from 1st May 1904 on an annual subsidy of Rs10,00,000

By the Asiatic Steam Navigation Company.

- (14) Six-weekly communication between Calcutta and Port Blair, with extensions to Madras and Rangoon.

The consideration is not in the form of a subsidy, but of guaranteed rates for the transport of Government stores, the contract is for five years, from 1st July 1901, and is terminable after the five years by a notice of six months.

By the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, Limited.

- (15) Daily communication (Fridays excepted) between Myingyan and Pokokku
- (16) Daily communication (Mondays excepted) between Prome and Thayetmyo.
- (17) Communication twice a week between Thayetmyo and Pokokku.
- (18) Communication three times a week between Minbu and Thayetmyo.
- (19) Weekly communication between Kindat and Pokokku
- (20) Weekly communication (provided the depth of the water permits) between Kindat and Homalin.

Under contract with the Burma Government for a period of five years from 1st July 1902. The subsidy Rs7,000 per mensem is paid by the Post Office.

- (21) Daily communication between Katha and Bhamo.

Under contract with the Burma Government to continue in force until six months' notice is given by either party. The subsidy Rs1,500 a month is paid by the Post Office.

- (22) Communication three times a week between Rangoon and Bassein.

Under contract with the Burma Government from 1st January 1896, and to continue in force until six months' notice is given by either party. The subsidy Rs1,250 per mensem is paid by the Post Office.

- (23) Daily communication (Sundays excepted) between Bassein and Myaungmya.

By the Indian and Burmese Post Office—continue

- (24) Weekly communication between Moulmein and Kyaukse } Under contract with the Burma Government to continue in force until six months' notice is given by either party. The subsidy Rs100 per mensem is paid by the Post Office.
- (25) Daily communication between Rangoon, Pyawon, Maubin and Yandon. } Under contract with the Burma Government to continue in force until six months' notice is given by either party, the subsidy, which is paid by the Post Office, being Rs40 per mensem.
- (26) Communication three times a week between Moulmein and Kyondo } Under contract with the Burma Government to continue in force until six months' notice is given by either party, the subsidy, which is paid by the Post Office, being Rs20 per mensem.
- (27) Daily communication (Sundays excepted) between Moulmein and Natogy } Under contract with the Burma Government to continue in force until six months' notice is given by either party, the subsidy, which is paid by the Post Office, being Rs500 per mensem.
- (28) Daily communication (Sundays excepted) between Moulmein and Kado } Under contract with the Burma Government to continue in force until six months' notice is given by either party, the subsidy, which is paid by the Post Office, being Rs500 per mensem.
- (29) Communication three times a week between Moulmein, Shewgun and Kamaung } Under contract with the Burma Government to continue in force until six months' notice is given by either party, the subsidy, which is paid by the Post Office, being Rs500 per mensem.

By the Arracan Company, Limited

- (30) Communication three times a week between Akyab and Butthidaung }
- (31) Communication twice a week between Akyab and Paletwa }
- (32) Communication once a week between Akyab and Kyaukse. } Under contract with the Burma Government for five years from 1st April 1905. Subsidy Rs35,000 a year is paid by the Post Office.
- (33) Communication once a week between Akyab and Myaungbue }
- (34) Weekly communication between Akyab and Sakanmaw and Myebon and Kyaukse }

By the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company

- (35) Weekly communication on the river Tigris between Busrah and Bagdad } Under contract for ten years, from the 1st May 1904, with His Majesty's Secretary of State for India. Subsidy Rs24,000 per annum: steamers to run in connection with line No. 10.

By Messrs. Apsar & Co., Calcutta, and Jardine, Matheson & Co., Hong Kong.

- (36) Communication at irregular intervals between Calcutta and the Straits and Hong Kong, the dates of departure being regulated mainly with reference to the Calcutta opium sales. } No subsidy.

By the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company

- (37) Fortnightly communication between Calcutta and Colombo, touching occasionally at Madras }
- (38) Fortnightly communication between Bombay and Colombo. } Non-contract lines maintained by the company in connection with the China and Australian mail services. Under Article 20 of the contract between the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and His Majesty's Postmaster General relating to the conveyance of the East India, China, and Australia mails, mails sent by these non-contract steamers are conveyed without any payment other than the subsidy specified in that contract.

By other Agencies.

- (39) By Rivers Steam Navigation Company.—Daily communications between Rowari and Dhubri, between Dhubri and Gaskati, and between Dhubri and Tezpur on the Brahmaputra River. } Under contract with the Post Office from the 1st May 1906 to the date of opening for public traffic of the Dhubri-Gauhati section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Annual subsidy Rs75,000 towards which the Bengal and the Eastern Bengal and Assam Governments contribute Rs50,000.
- (40) By the Bombay Steam Navigation Company.—Daily communication between Bombay and Goa. } Under contract with the Post Office from 1st October 1907 to 31st May 1908. The monthly subsidy paid by the Post Office is Rs3,000, towards which the Goa Government contributes Rs200.
- (41) By M. G. Bwin and Brothers.—Weekly communication between Kyaukse and Cheduba, Kyaukse and Ramree, Sandoway and Singing Sandoway, Toungup and Kyaukse. } Under contract with the Burma Government for five years from 1st April 1905. Subsidy Rs23,200 a year.
- (42) By Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw and Brothers.—Weekly communication between Aden, Berbera and Seyla. } Under contract with the Government of the Somaliland Protectorate for nine months from 1st July 1907 to 31st March 1908. The monthly subsidy is Rs1,050, of which Rs300 is at the sole charge of the Protectorate Government, and the balance, viz., Rs750, is paid in equal shares by the Protectorate Government and the Indian Post Office.

APPENDICES.

Appendix I.

Number of post offices, letter-boxes and village postmen, and (2) the number of post offices, letter-boxes and village postmen, and (3) the distances over which mails were conveyed by Railway, mail carts, runners and steamers at the close of the year 1907-08 and of the preceding year.

DISTANCE OVER WHICH MAILS WERE CONVEYED BY

POST OFFICES, LETTER-BOXES AND VILLAGE POSTMEN.

Name of post office, letter-box or village postman.	RAILWAYS									
	Under local control.					Under inspection, General, Railway Mail Service and Sorting.				
	1906-07	1907-08	1908-09	1909-10	1910-11	1906-07	1907-08	1908-09	1909-10	1910-11
No.	Letter-boxes.		Village Postmen.		Total	Miles.		Miles.		Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.		Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	
5,344	6,138	379	2,435	8,044	3,890	4,316	80	105	14,915	20,654
3,711	8,557	1,347	2,758	13,193	3,831	3,103	1,105	1,212	13,646	24,471
3,498	7,580	1,814	2,480	11,752	3,355	5,122	1,268	1,333	16,906	25,072
1,878	5,335	1,720	2,975	5,853	4,130	3,004	831	916	10,804	26,195
3,094	5,229	1,627	2,153	5,129	4,788	4,704	3,810	3,725	12,091	15,710
1,701	3,817	474	1,754	2,994	1,592	1,039	64	94	10,865	21,461
1,681	1,681	323	1,759	322	1,343	1,343	637	687	10,725	12,958
1,400	1,400	489	1,045	936	2,210	2,324	389	365	8,350	12,833
493	411	210	565	455	2,198	2,019	895	952	5,027	10,931
117	117	180	8,254
17,180	39,523	8,389	17,777	41,648	28,994	27,954	9,109	9,379	96,094	153,606
...	+ 597	+ 2,135	+ 180
Total	30,535	27,954	9,109	9,379	95,372	154,338
Distance of postmen	+ 6831	- 602	+ 732

Number of post offices and letter-boxes (including the letter-boxes at post offices) in relation to area and population

Name of post office, letter-box or village postman.	ONE POST OFFICE SERVED—				ONE LETTER BOX SERVED—				NUMBER OF POSTAL ARTICLES FOR READ OF	
	Population.		Literate population.		Population.		Literate population.		Total number of postal articles (excluding money orders).	Literate population.
	Square miles.	Population.	Square miles.	Literate population.	Square miles.	Population.	Square miles.	Literate population.		
154,359	55,397,871	2,515,578	63	1,033	17	5,978	17	271	142,350,340	56 59
203,125	27,477,010	1,708,010	72	643	17	2,458	16	154	91,663,749,958	92 33
182,111	47,170,491	3,186,691	52	916	16	4,197	20	283	147,617,151	40 32
161,886	54,409,274	1,989,930	78	766	20	6,855	35	199	98,931,475	60 34
295,160	30,503,865	1,049,352	92	330	35	3,054	18	120	121,203,666	115 48
106,540	31,000,000	2,675,692	59	1,491	18	5,350	11	461	65,937,488	24 67
236,738	10,490,624	2,229,662	586	5,505	111	1,043	63	215	31,077,970	13 97
126,622	13,635,065	480,762	121	411	13,110	6,812	151	443	32,183,868	75 35
155,092	12,461,312	455,042	276	807	23,435,366	51 40
1,622,533	282,606,612	15,922,134	91	896	27	4,756	28	268	826,321,252	51 90
1,622,533	282,606,612	15,922,134	94	927	28	4,984	...	281	779,132,873	48 93
Total (1907-08)
Total (1906-07)

Administrative Offices of the Indian Post Office at Bangalore, Bikaner, and places in the Frontier Gilt.

Appendix II.

Number of letters, postcards, newspapers, and packets given out for delivery, and (3) the actual number of parcels posted during the year 1907-08.

	BENGAL.	BOMBAY.	MADRAS.	UNITED PROVINCES.	PUNJAB AND N.-W. FRONTIER.	P. BENGAL AND ASSAM.	BURMA.	CENTRAL PROVINCES.	RAJPUTANA.	TOTAL.	
										1907-08.	1906-07.
General postal traffic.											
Letters	51,512,795	60,641,183	58,560,574	35,370,619	3,917,711	21,099,555	17,125,844	11,565,982	8,574,735	300,346,979	281,460,463
Postcards	8,934,037	4,092,719	3,478,737	6,714,775	3,794,740	3,794,821	4,427,394	1,080,876	1,134,819	39,304,000	26,100,195
Registered	2,784,143	2,131,548	2,889,514	2,351,713	2,424,200	888,908	699,599	581,549	369,733	13,650,794	14,374,716
Insured	103,599	65,405	135,893	56,419	35,741	39,733	14,698	11,106	9,591	470,108	381,076
Value-payable	24,613	245,113	851,388	208,311	275,995	151,169	70,810	97,191	55,438	1,512,350	1,280,695
Service magazines	387,695	12,897	2,544,311	9,5724	711,072			171,263		4,707,822	4,998,107
Total Letters	65,790,601	67,051,396	68,563,347	42,781,561	46,151,298	25,074,009	22,471,212	14,355,070	10,714,250	700,972,073	639,541,143
Replies	54,128,793	79,769,178	59,420,587	30,101,590	57,934,640	30,647,711	2,020,043	13,176,421	10,833,669	340,658,671	330,538,307
Replies	3,432,435	2,619,885	2,137,649	2,586,155	3,150,906	907,504	199,655	497,531	74,479	25,147,073	14,693,313
Total Letters and Postcards	124,312,810	146,440,658	130,190,583	84,476,306	107,206,914	56,469,124	25,101,010	28,030,780	21,514,331	726,119,146	654,239,456
Articles of the Letter Mail											
Ordinary	9,618,615	8,233,737	7,497,235	4,830,754	6,993,001	5,480,657	2,152,100	2,439,774	980,576	48,291,479	41,445,766
Insured	9,004,827	7,216,215	8,410,368	5,314,841	5,400,305	3,045,093	3,307,682	1,603,454	8,827	44,599,257	41,541,213
Registered	225,456	152,839	173,062	124,126	143,732	78,579	68,594	40,489	20,775	998,456	790,029
Value-payable, registered	66,653	27,106	46,694	37,438	61,704	44,243	18,067	18,172	9,735	310,450	282,275
Value-payable, unregistered	645,193	416,647	580,793	417,012	554,383	472,440	88,121	158,979	50,353	2,403,811	2,900,050
Total Articles of the Letter Mail	140,824,590	168,546,662	149,778,795	95,990,477	120,320,619	66,590,081	30,765,874	32,850,488	21,314,205	820,755,154	774,774,702
Ordinary	458,655	399,869	297,018	260,617	485,537	160,939	177,010	62,763	74,793	2,504,160	2,141,757
Insured	89,701	133,586	70,093	27,839	42,078	19,055	33,760	10,634	39,069	478,285	390,852
Value-payable	364,918	195,271	179,380	79,735	86,109	16,491	70,943	4,845	3,990	1,008,612	941,925
Ordinary	90,441	133,082	105,153	74,330	72,411	36,336	5,884	12,722	13,000	513,442	531,711
Value-payable	533,035	266,189	194,722	176,957	186,651	174,596	19,499	3,397	2,316	1,484,173	1,366,139
Total Parcels	1,536,750	1,146,967	891,356	621,998	872,687	547,407	312,066	94,410	123,158	5,884,169	5,261,984
General Traffic	143,359,340	166,693,029	147,621,251	95,991,473	121,205,606	66,927,488	31,077,970	32,383,898	23,435,366	820,699,323	779,556,556
Number of articles returned undelivered	4,999,805	4,903,097	4,332,576	2,920,795	5,098,384	2,215,211	1,440,827	1,330,469	821,041	24,900,795	23,600,344
Number of articles sent to Dead Letter Offices which were ultimately delivered.	1,530,173	921,243	769,821	912,273	816,601	351,808	387,971	103,761	216,366	6,210,167	5,592,354
Total articles delivered	140,889,566	166,711,175	144,644,396	95,015,023	118,101,973	64,974,085	30,035,104	31,247,390	22,890,691	807,849,495	761,339,666

Appendix III.

Statement showing the number of articles dealt with by the several Dead Letter Offices during the year 1907-08.

NAME OF DEAD LETTER OFFICES.	RECEIVED FOR DISPOSAL *					Total	Total for 1906-07.
	Unregistered letters and postcards.	Registered Newspapers	Unregistered packets.	Registered letters, postcards, and packets	Parcels.		
Ajmer	291,632	4,240	2,103	1,837	632	300,444	282,970
Bombay	1,276,602	35,550	69,330	20,629	13,487	1,415,598	1,233,301
Calcutta	1,572,813	74,073	178,557	17,605	17,570	1,860,618	1,530,978
Dacca	404,719	5,241	10,483	5,612	2,205	428,260	418,911
Karachi	94,984
Lahore	1,092,123	24,371	27,350	9,366	11,099	1,164,309	1,088,222
Lucknow	1,392,908	16,448	26,945	15,968	1,951	1,454,220	1,324,759
Madras	915,746	16,294	60,103	37,728	17,179	1,047,050	1,002,249
Nagpur	248,963	1,157	4,230	3,347	1,021	258,718	245,744
Rangoon	491,220	6,502	6,997	6,464	2,749	513,932	414,908
TOTAL (a)	7,686,726	183,876	386,098	118,556	67,893	8,443,149	7,642,026
(1) Issued for delivery to addressees	2,563,081	54,761	121,870	9,017	8,936	2,757,665	2,288,605
Percentage on total at (a)	33'34	29'78	31'56	7'61	13'16	32'66	29'95
(2) Issued for delivery to senders	3,357,585	122,644	234,646	98,703	55,073	3,868,651	3,741,429
Percentage on total at (a)	43'68	66'70	60'78	83'25	81'12	45'82	48'96
(3) Total of (1) and (2)	5,920,666	177,405	356,516	107,720	64,009	6,626,316	6,030,034
Percentage on total at (a)	77'02	96'48	92'34	90'86	94'28	78'48	78'91
(4) Actually delivered to addressees or senders	5,414,925	176,324	354,235	102,350	63,133	6,110,967	5,594,854
Percentage of (4) on (3)	91'46	99'39	99'36	95'02	98'63	92'22	92'74
(5) Returned as undeliverable	505,741	1,081	2,281	5,370	876	515,349	501,180
Percentage of (5) on (3)	8'54	6'1	6'4	4'98	1'37	7'78	7'05
(6) Returned originally to dead	1,766,060	6,471	29,582	10,836	3,884	1,816,833	1,781,180
Percentage of (6) on (3)	29'98	3'52	7'90	9'74	5'72	27'52	29'24
(7) Returned to dead	5,271,861	7,352	32,863	16,266	4,760	5,333,102	5,271,180

Appendix V(a).

Statement showing the money order business in the last ten years.

Year.	INLAND ORDERS.				FOREIGN (INCLUDING NATIVE STATE) ORDERS.				GRAND TOTAL.			
	Number.	Amount.	Increase per cent. on Number.	Increase per cent. on Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Increase per cent. on Number.	Increase per cent. on Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Increase per cent. on Number.	Increase per cent. on Amount.
1898-99	11,740,365	24,54,50,445	+65	+1'28	387,291	R 1,71,83,295	+9'06	+7'69	12,127,856	R 26,26,33,740	+90	+1'68
1899-1900	12,505,059	25,62,50,323	+6'51	+4'40	447,424	1,92,12,115	+15'53	+11'81	12,952,483	27,54,62,438	+6'80	+4'88
1900-01	12,922,465	26,27,19,976	+3'34	+2'52	498,248	2,18,08,117	+11'36	+13'51	13,420,713	28,45,28,093	+3'61	+3'29
1901-02	13,581,928	26,84,51,162	+5'10	+2'18	525,290	2,41,00,707	+5'43	+10'51	14,107,218	29,25,51,869	+5'12	+2'82
1902-03	15,311,955	27,82,17,678	+12'74	+3'64	556,609	2,48,09,679	+5'96	+2'94	15,868,564	30,30,27,357	+12'48	+3'58
1903-04	16,470,115	29,43,59,136	+7'56	+5'80	596,478	2,67,74,506	+7'16	+7'92	17,066,593	32,11,33,642	+7'55	+5'98
1904-05	17,657,917	31,04,28,794	+7'21	+5'46	642,611	2,88,05,118	+7'73	+7'58	18,300,528	33,92,33,912	+7'23	+5'64
1905-06	19,622,437	33,14,36,803	+11'13	+6'77	673,981	3,11,97,172	+4'88	+8'30	20,296,418	35,26,33,975	+10'91	+6'90
1906-07	20,923,383	35,25,97,091	+6'63	+6'38	697,430	3,45,80,384	+3'48	+10'84	21,620,813	38,71,77,475	+6'52	+6'77
1907-08	22,338,462	37,97,08,358	+6'76	+7'69	737,016	3,82,49,203	+5'68	+10'61	23,075,478	41,79,57,561	+6'73	+7'95

Statement showing for the year 1907-08 inland (ordinary and telegraphic) money order transactions according to postal circles.

	ORDINARY ORDERS.						TELEGRAPHIC ORDERS.						TOTAL.		
	ISSUES.		PAYMENTS.		ISSUES.		PAYMENTS.		ISSUES.		PAYMENTS.		Commission		
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			
Sumatra	5,157,332	6,95,04,767	5,914,915	8,32,65,037	29,941	31,29,613	40,966	33,99,035	5,187,273	7,26,34,386	5,955,881	8,66,64,072	R	8,80,598	
Batavia	2,932,451	4,47,00,616	4,227,960	6,12,48,466	13,663	10,95,640	40,090	27,60,303	2,946,114	4,57,96,256	4,268,050	6,70,08,769		5,39,991	
Penang	3,312,155	4,45,79,545	3,382,099	4,97,70,295	43,632	35,89,056	100,056	76,16,320	3,255,787	4,81,68,601	3,482,155	5,73,86,815		5,77,140	
And S.W. Frontier	2,379,401	3,95,59,744	2,890,613	4,77,89,630	22,593	20,39,195	27,817	25,75,235	2,401,994	4,15,89,939	2,918,430	5,03,64,865		5,08,386	
Malacca	2,157,076	3,75,05,955	2,177,995	4,09,89,799	15,343	13,03,504	19,449	19,65,967	2,172,419	3,86,09,459	2,197,444	4,29,55,676		4,19,858	
Bengal and Assam	1,335,102	3,41,01,312	4,49,706	1,37,53,806	136,516	1,18,43,827	39,979	59,80,327	1,471,618	4,59,45,169	489,685	1,97,34,333		4,92,452	
Provinces	3,324,557	5,29,47,284	1,912,483	3,24,44,056	25,746	27,50,251	34,881	30,42,216	3,350,303	5,56,97,535	1,977,364	3,54,86,272		6,29,048	
Ind	1,069,699	2,02,23,730	456,875	93,86,786	9,445	8,10,537	5,149	4,65,428	1,079,084	2,10,34,267	462,024	98,52,214		2,32,328	
Total	468,670	95,36,197	351,997	90,16,971	5,200	4,06,555	6,696	6,32,040	473,870	1,00,32,752	358,693	96,49,911		1,08,190	
Total	22,036,383	35,26,50,180	21,794,643	35,06,64,756	302,079	2,70,58,178	315,083	2,84,38,171	22,338,462	37,97,08,358	22,109,726	37,91,02,927		43,87,991	
Total for 1906-07	20,662,435	32,81,87,210	20,496,478	32,63,49,513	260,948	2,44,09,881	275,851	2,56,02,159	20,923,383	35,25,97,991	20,772,329	35,19,51,672		40,80,737	
Less + or decrease -	+1,373,948	+2,44,62,970	+1,298,165	+2,43,15,243	+41,131	+20,48,297	+39,232	+28,36,012	+1,415,079	+2,71,11,267	+1,337,397	+2,71,51,255		+3,07,254	

Statement showing money order transactions with the United Kingdom, British possessions, and foreign countries and with the Native States of India during the year 1907-08 and the preceding year.

[illegible]

and the number of servants of the Post Office punished in those cases during the year 1907-08.

The figures in this Appendix show the cases in which punishment was imposed owing to the cases not being concluded on the death or escape of the offenders. The figures in this Appendix show the cases in which punishment was imposed owing to the cases not being concluded on the death or escape of the offenders.

Statement showing the Post Office staff for the year 1907-08 and the preceding year.

Appendix IX.

Statement showing the traffic statistics of combined (post and telegraph) offices for the year 1907-08.

NAMES OF POSTAL CIRCLES	Number of combined offices open on 1st March 1908	TOTAL APPROXIMATE COST INCURRED BY THE POST OFFICE WORKING COMBINED OFFICES DURING THE YEAR, SETTABLE TO THE TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.		NUMBER OF MESSAGES.			Revenue realised during the year on sent messages (Inland and Foreign).	REMARKS.
		Lump sums charged to the Telegraph Department.	Other charges	Sent, Inland and Foreign (excluding "Free messages").	Received	Transit		
1. Madras . . .	468	R 1 0 0 0 0 0 7 a 8 8 0 0 0 0 7 4,15,082	R a p. 41,738 2 0	R a p. ..	
2. Punjab and N. W. F. . . .	338	R 26,168 6 600 0 0 0 a 33,185 4 4 2 39,974 4 2 4,968	46,050 3 2	
3. Bengal . . .	312	On account of whole-time signalers attached to 1st and 2nd class combined offices (1) On account of establishments of 3rd class combined offices (2) Consolidated contribution towards additional establishments in central controlling and (3) count offices (4) On account of extra cost for privilege leave vacancies (5) Transit pay and travelling allowance of combined office officials (6) Cost of stationery and forms, etc. (7) Cost of manufacturing postage stamps	41,805 2 10	
4. Bombay . . .	304	..	38,058 10 5	
5. Eastern Bengal and Assam	293	..	21,985 13 10	
6. United Provinces . . .	210	..	24,211 1 9	
7. Burma . . .	146	..	30,322 15 4	
8. Central Provinces . . .	120	..	14,516 5 11	
9. Rajputana . . .	74	..	9,056 13 4	
Total for 1907-08 . . .	2,265	8,02,920 6 7	2,70,755 4 3	6,123,137*	5,984,587	1,347,070	34,64,784 2 10	
TOTAL FOR 1906-07 . . .	2,158	9,89,335 11 3		5,272,276	5,223,487	1,255,396	30,97,402 7 10	
Increase (+) or decrease (-)	+107	84,339 15 7		850,861	761,100	91,674	3,67,381 9 0	
Percentage of increase (+) or decrease (-)	+4.98	+8.52		+16.13	+14.57	+7.30	+11.86	

* Excluding 408,300 free messages.

Appendix X.

Statement showing the operations of the scheme of Life Insurance, Endowment Assurance, and Monthly Allowances during the year 1907-08.

	LIFE INSURANCE.				ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE.				GRAND TOTAL.				MONTHLY ALLOWANCES.			
	Number of lives insured.	Amount insured.	Amount received in premiums (including fines and medical fees).	Amount of claims met.	Number of lives insured.	Amount insured.	Amount received in premiums (including fines and medical fees).	Amount of claims met.	Number of lives insured.	Amount insured.	Amount received in premiums (including fines and medical fees).	Amount of claims met.	Number of subscribers.	Amount of monthly allowances secured.	Amount of subscriptions received.	Claims of monthly allowances met.
Root Officers.	209	2,07,700	62,140 0 10	58,041 11 3	1,644	10,64,525	1,47,706 7 5	60,460 0 4	1,943	12,72,235	2,09,846 8 3	1,18,501 11 7	179 6 0	113 0 0
Non-Commissioned Department.	20	231,700	32,043 12 10	16,412 0 9	83	1,81,806	47,995 1 7	17,557 10 4	103	2,15,506	79,863 14 5	33,920 11 1	700 0 0
Adult Workers Department.	28	70,000	11,541 8 6	564 0 0	120	2,40,773	78,335 9 7	20,303 0 6	148	3,10,723	89,977 2 1	20,867 0 6	112 8 0	102 0 0
Orphan Fund.	13	10,350	1,765 11 8	222 0 0	60	55,090	9,556 7 10	3,014 4 1	71	66,300	11,322 3 6	3,236 4 1	9	30 8 0	4,825 14 4	7,771 9 3
Other Civil Departments.	166	2,91,000	66,754 8 7	16,058 12 3	681	12,02,622	3,85,382 14 7	1,44,072 13 5	847	14,03,622	4,52,137 7 2	1,60,131 9 8	1	12 0 0	44 4 4	719 13 2
Military Department.	13	14,500	5,090 15 10	6,521 7 4	41	68,000	24,227 10 5	5,001 12 3	54	82,500	30,818 10 3	11,523 3 7	9 6 0	81 0 0
TOTAL.	(a) 257	6,27,230	1,80,335 10 3	97,819 15 7	(b) 2,699	28,13,626	6,03,634 3 5	2,50,369 8 11	3,166	34,40,896	8,73,970 13 8	3,48,189 8 6	(c) 10	62 8 0	5,171 6 8	9,487 6 5
Force from 1906-07.	219	3,24,450	1,70,045 10 6	68,441 9 10	1,313	13,84,077	6,06,933 1 11	1,74,393 4 0	1,533	22,07,327	7,77,878 12 5	2,42,834 13 10	9	71 4 11	10,635 0 0	10,861 2 8
Force from 1906-07.	318	3,05,800	9,390 15 9	29,378 5 9	1,316	9,20,549	86,701 1 6	75,976 4 11	1,634	12,33,349	96,092 1 3	1,05,354 10 8	1
Force from 1906-07.	8 12 11	5,483 9 4	1,373 12 3

	Asiatic.	Non-Asiatic.	Asiatic.	Non-Asiatic.	Asiatic.	Non-Asiatic.
(a) 1907-08	533	5	2,458	171	..	1
(b) 1907-08
(c) 1907-08
1906-07	217	8	1,228	85

Appendix XI.

Statement showing the financial result of the administration of the Postal Insurance Fund to the end of the year 1907-08

Life Insurance.			Endowment Assurance.			Miscellaneous.		
Receipts—	£	s. d.	Receipts—	£	s. d.	Balance on 1st April 1907	£	s. d.
Balance on 1st April 1907	18,10,393	8 9	Balance on 1st April 1907	25,55,616	9 5	Balance on 1st April 1907	61,71,15	11
Premium realised on Life Insurance Policies during 1907-08	1,30,179	10 1	Premium realised on Endowment Assurance Policies during 1907-08	9,13,911	1 9	Subscriptions realised during 1907-08	107,15	1
Premium realised during 1907-08	97	0 2	Fines realised during 1907-08	135	1 1	Amount paid in lump for purchase of immediate monthly allowances	1753	9 1
Medical fees realised during 1907-08	60	0 0	Medical fees realised during 1907-08	404	11 1	Fines realised during 1907-08		
Total			Total			Total		
	19,90,730	3 0		32,70,450	12 10			66,41,15
Payments—	£	s. d.	Payments—	£	s. d.	Payments—	£	s. d.
Life Insurance Policies paid	82,070	0 0	Endowment Assurance Policies paid	21,583	0 0	Allowances paid	9,512	0 0
Surrender values paid	5,232	9 8	Surrender values paid	10,793	3 4	Share of values paid	11	1 0
Medical fees paid	4,988	0 0	Medical fees paid	10,032	0 0	Refunds	165	0 0
Refunds of medical fees	4	0 0	Refunds of medical fees	4	0 0	Cost of Establishment, including printing, etc.		
Refunds	393	5 11	Refunds	932	5 7			
Cost of Establishment, including printing, etc.	5,132	0 0	Cost of Establishment, including printing, etc.	14,725	0 0			
Total			Total			Total		
	97,819	15 7		25,036	8 11			9,187
	18,92,910	3 5		30,29,081	8 11			86,056
Interest on balance	65,215	1 2	Interest on balance	98,596	0 8	Interest on balance		3,077
Balance on 31st March 1908	19,39,120	4 7	Balance on 31st March 1908	31,28,077	4 7	Balance on 31st March 1908		69,013

Appendix XII.

Statement showing the receipts and charges

POST OFFICE RECEIPTS.		Amount.	
		R	R
I.—POSTAL SERVICE.			
Cash Receipts.			
Postage on Letters and Parcels, etc.	14,84,194	
Receipts on account of Money Orders		45,19,172	
Ditto ditto British Postal Orders		8,899	
		60,12,265	
DEDUCT—			
Refund of Postage Collections		856	60,11,409
Sale of Ordinary Postage Stamps (Gross Value)*	1,76,30,112
Ditto Service ditto	37,56,667
Miscellaneous Receipts (i.e., Sale of waste papers, etc.)—			
Fees for Window-Delivery Tickets		17,465	
Other petty receipts		1,26,391	
		1,43,856	
DEDUCT—			
Refund of Window-Delivery Tickets		62	
Refund of petty receipts		10,467	
		10,529	1,33,327
DEDUCT—			
Amount due to the British Post Office		2,03,193	2,75,315
Payments to Colonial and other Foreign Administrations		10,648	
TOTAL			2,75,315

XII.

of the Post Office during the year 1907-08.

POST OFFICE EXPENDITURE.		Amount.	
I.—POSTAL SERVICE.		R	R
<i>Salaries and Establishment.</i>			
CHIEF OFFICE, CALCUTTA.	Director-General's Office, Salaries	1,44,951	
	Establishment	1,04,481	
	Comptroller's Office, Salaries	59,159	
	Establishment	6,70,072	
PRESIDENCY AND DISTRICT OFFICES.	Postmasters-General, Deputy Postmasters-General, and Inspectors-General, Railway Mail Service and Sorting, Salaries	2,67,396	
	Presidency Postmasters, Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, and Inspectors, Salaries	10,45,179	
	Establishment	1,15,01,747	
CONVEYANCE OF MAILS.	Road Establishment	23,44,445	
	Ferry and Boat Establishment	22,654	
	Railway Charges	2,283	
STATIONERY AND PRINTING.	Printing Establishment	49,150	
POST OFFICE, MISCELLANEOUS. Aligarh Workshop Establishment		19,440	
<i>Miscellaneous and Contingent Charges</i>			1,62,30,957
CHIEF OFFICE, CALCUTTA.	Director-General's Office. Temporary Establishment	2,412	
	Travelling Expenses and Allowances	20,617	
	Hill Journey Allowances	13,902	
	Office Expenses	22,348	
	Grain Compensation Allowances	2,552	
	Comptroller's Office. Temporary Establishment	312	
	Travelling Expenses and Allowances	21,440	
	Office Expenses	31,133	
	Grain Compensation Allowances	7,385	
	PRESIDENCY AND DISTRICT OFFICES. Experimental and Temporary Establishment	1,27,070	
PRESIDENCY AND DISTRICT OFFICES.	Travelling Expenses and Allowances	7,63,165	
	Grain Compensation Allowances	2,97,043	
	Construction and repair of post offices	44,447	
	Office Expenses	19,87,867	
	CONVEYANCE OF MAILS. Road Establishment, Temporary	36,079	
CONVEYANCE OF MAILS.	Ferry and Boat Establishment, Temporary	16,945	
	Ditto Grain Compensation Allowances	3,058	
	Ditto Contingencies	3,875	
	Contingent Road Charges	1,95,055	
	Grain Compensation Allowances	1,25,803	
	Railway Charges, Temporary Establishment	39	
	Ditto Grain Compensation Allowances	18	
	Payment to Guaranteed and other Railways	1,11,476	
	Special Train Hire	2,47,234	
	Payments to State Railways	18,40,331	
	Mail Cart, Passenger, Parcel, and Goods Service Charges	1,55,808	
	Deduct—Non-Postal Charges	22,946	
		1,32,952	
	Bounty Money	3,052	
	STATIONERY AND PRINTING. Printing, Miscellaneous	10,47,707	
	Grain Compensation Allowances	2,305	
POST OFFICE, MISCELLANEOUS.	Aligarh Workshop Contingencies	3,278	
	Grain Compensation Allowances	224	
	Other Miscellaneous Charges	9,10,055	
	Loss by Exchange on Continental Money Orders	101	
Loss by Exchange on Bagdad Money Orders		1,750	
Total			2,42,00,000

Appendix

Statement showing the receipts and charges of the

POST OFFICE RECEIPTS.		Amount.	
		R	R
II.—NON-POSTAL BRANCHES.			
Mail Cart, Passenger, Parcel, and Goods Service Receipts		22,946	...
		..	22,946
Contribution from Native States	6,000
TOTAL REVENUE AS PER POST OFFICE ACCOUNT	2,73,46,625
GRAND TOTAL .			
{ FOR 1907-08	2,73,46,625
{ FOR 1906-07	2,62,69,413

XII—*contd.**Post Office during the year 1907-08—contd.*

POST OFFICE EXPENDITURE

II.—NON-POSTAL BRANCHES.

CONVEYANCE OF	{ Mail Cart, Passenger, Parcel, and Goods Service	.	.	.
MAILS.	{ Subsidies	.	.	.
				TOTAL .

TOTAL EXPENDITURE AS PER POST OFFICE ACCOUNT**III.—CHARGES NOT DEALT WITH IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT, BUT DEBITED TO POST OFFICE IN FINANCE AND REVENUE ACCOUNTS.**

District Post Establishments in Baluchistan
Stores from England
Payments under Postal Arrangements with Lords of the Treasury
						TOTAL .

GRAND TOTAL

{	FOR 1907-08 .	.
	FOR 1906-07 .	.

Amount.	
<i>R</i>	<i>R</i>
...	22,946
...	13,15,436
...	13 38,332
...	2,55,01,388
...	70,306
...	15,900
...	9,01,800
...	9,88,005
...	2,65 89,394
...	2,40,20,426

CALCUTTA
SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT PRINTING, INDIA
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ON

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FOR THE YEAR

1907-1908.

